

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Final Management Plan-Environmental Impact Statement

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Final Management Plan-Environmental Impact Statement

Brief description of plan:

This plan ensures the sustainable use of the Keys' marine environment by achieving a balance between comprehensive resource protection and multiple, compatible uses of those resources. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary consists of approximately 2,800 square nautical miles of coastal and oceanic waters, and the submerged lands thereunder, surrounding the Florida Keys and extending westward to encompass the Dry Tortugas but excluding the Dry Tortugas National Park.

Region the plan is located within:

Gulf of Mexico Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

G010x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

3,668.00 square miles

Plan scale:

State

Plan's lead organization(s):

U.S. Department of Commerce, NOS, NOAA, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division

Plan's Main Contact Information:

Billy Causey
Superintendent
NOAA
Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary
PO Box 500368
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-2437

On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

1996

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

Conduct a program of restoration research at representative habitat sites within the Sanctuary; develop a restoration plan and implement restoration in severely impacted areas, and monitor recovery processes; develop and implement a Stocking Policy related to restoration research; conduct a program of restoration research; recruit volunteers who serve as Buddy Divers and Underwater Assistants.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Local

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Held public workshops, meetings, open house, or scoping meetings
Formed an advisory group(s)

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

S

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

S

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Y

Other plan names:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Stocking Policy

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

The Florida Keys are a limestone island archipelago extending southwest over 320 km from the southern tip of the Florida mainland to the Dry Tortugas, 101 km west of Key West. They are bounded on the north and west by the relatively shallow waters of Biscayne Bay, Barnes and Blackwater Sounds, Florida Bay, all of which are areas of extensive mud shoals and seagrass beds, and the Gulf of Mexico. Hawk Channel lies to the south, between the mainland Keys and an extensive reef tract 8 km offshore. The Straits of Florida lie beyond the reef, separating the Keys from Cuba and the Bahamas. The Keys are made up of over 1,700 islands encompassing approximately 266 square km. They are broad, with little relief, have a shoreline length of 2,989 km and are inhabited from Soldier Key to Key West. Key Largo and Big Pine Key are the largest islands. The Sanctuary encompasses approximately 9,500 square km of submerged lands and waters between the southern tip of Key Biscayne and the Dry Tortugas Bank. North of Key Largo it includes Barnes and Card Sounds, and to the east and south the oceanic boundary is the 300 ft isobath. It also contains part of the Florida Bay and the entire Florida Reef Tract. Some sites in the Sanctuary are entirely submerged, some entirely upland, and some have both a land and water component. Some sites serve as protective barriers, preventing damage to sensitive environmental habitats. Others, encompassing ecosystems that are already impacted, are protected from further degradation. Additional protection is provided for archaeological and historical site preservation, environmental conservation, recreation, public access, education and scientific research.